

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1417
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/26/05
Third Edition Engrossed 6/1/05
Senate Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 7/5/05
Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee Substitute Adopted 7/20/06

Short Title: ED Regional Partnership Accountability.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 21, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT RELATING TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 2 of Chapter 158 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new sections to read:

"§ 158-8.5. Annual reporting requirement.

By February 15 of each year, the commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33, the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Research Triangle Regional Partnership shall publish a report containing the information required by this section. The commissions and partnerships shall also submit a copy of the report to the Department of Commerce, the Office of State Budget and Management, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Economic Development Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly. The report shall include all of the following:

- (1) A summary of the preceding year's program activities, objectives, and accomplishments.
- (2) The preceding fiscal year's itemized expenditures of State funds.
- (3) A demonstration of how the commission's or partnership's regional economic development and marketing strategy aligns with the State's overall economic development and marketing strategies.
- (4) A demonstration of how the commission's or partnership's involvement in promotion activities has generated leads.
- (5) The most recent audited annual financial statement regarding State funds.

1 **"§ 158-8.6. Uniform standards.**

2 The Department of Commerce, in consultation with the commissions created
3 pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33, the Charlotte Regional
4 Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Research Triangle Regional
5 Partnership, shall develop uniform standards for the use of State funds related to
6 accounting procedures, personnel practices, and purchasing and contracts procedures.
7 The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33 shall
8 follow these standards. As a condition on the receipt of State funds, the Charlotte
9 Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Research Triangle
10 Regional Partnership shall follow these standards.

11 **"§ 158-8.7. Use of State funds.**

12 The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33,
13 the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the
14 Research Triangle Regional Partnership, are subject to all of the provisions of
15 G.S. 143-6.2.

16 **"§ 158-8.8. Orientation for board members.**

17 The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2, 158-8.3, and 158-33
18 shall hold an orientation session for all newly appointed commission members. The
19 orientation shall provide information on the duties and responsibilities of commission
20 members and shall include information on the commission's policies and State law
21 regarding conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and ethical behavior. At least once a
22 year, each of these commissions shall distribute to all commission members information
23 on the commission's policies and State law regarding conflicts of interest, financial
24 disclosure, and ethical behavior."

25 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Commerce may hire a consultant to assist
26 in the development of the uniform standards required by G.S. 158-8.6, as enacted by
27 Section 1 of this act. The commissions created pursuant to G.S. 158-8.1, 158-8.2,
28 158-8.3, and 158-33, the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Inc., the Piedmont Triad
29 Partnership, and the Research Triangle Regional Partnership, shall pay the costs of
30 developing the uniform standards required by G.S. 158-8.6, as enacted by Section 1 of
31 this act, in equal shares up to a maximum aggregate amount of fifty thousand dollars
32 (\$50,000). The Department of Commerce shall pay from funds available in its
33 2006-2007 budget any costs for developing the uniform standards in excess of fifty
34 thousand dollars (\$50,000).

35 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2006. The
36 remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2006.